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HEADQUARTERS
U. S. ARMY, EUROPE
Office of the Chief of Staff
APO 403, New York, N. Y.

AEAGC-AV 280/144 GC

7 August 1958

SUBJECT: Flight of H-19 Into East Germany (U)

TO: Deputy Chief of Staff for Military
Operations
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

1. (UNCLASSIFIED) Reference DCSOPS message DA-358354.

2. (UNCLASSIFIED) The formal investigation of the flight of H-19, Number 56-4250, into East Germany on 7 June 1958 indicated the cause to be failure of the pilot to plan and conduct his flight in such a manner as to insure its successful conclusion. Specifically, the pilot:

a. Attempted to navigate solely by ADF and memory when ceiling and visibility were correctly forecast to approach minimum for VFR flight.

b. Did not have aboard the aircraft TM 11-2557-4 which is required for radio navigation.

c. Did not indicate to the copilot any duties which he should perform, nor have the copilot follow the flight path on a map or aeronautical chart.

d. Made no time-distance calculations nor attempt to locate himself, other than by ADF, until sometime after flying beyond the coverage of maps in the aircraft.

✓ 3. (CONFIDENTIAL) There is a possibility that an unknown radio beacon in East Germany, using the same identifiers (GF) and within 1-3 kilocycles of the Grafenwohr beacon, lured the pilot off course. Existence

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of this beacon has not been definitely confirmed although there is evidence that such a beacon has been on the air. Use of maps or bearings on other beacons would thwart decoy beacons.

4. (UNCLASSIFIED) The pilot and copilot have been placed before a Flying Evaluation Board. Additional training is being given the copilot. Action is being taken to correct deficiencies indicated by the investigation.

5. (UNCLASSIFIED) Regrading data cannot be predetermined.

For Mr. Willem
JOHN M. WILLEMS
Major General GS
Chief of Staff

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